

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDUCATIONUL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS: EVALUATION OF
DEPARTMENT PRBGRAMS IN LESOTHO

REF: (A) STATE A-1673, (B) STATE 175725

1. DUE TO RECENT TRANSFER OF OFFICERS WHO MANAGED CU PROGRAMS
IN COUNTRY, REPORT IS NOT AS COMPREHENSIVE OR COMPLETE AS
WOULD BE DESIRED. HOWEVER, POST HAS ATTEMPTED TO BE AS COMPLETE
AS POSSIBLE WITHIN GUIDELINES REPAIR.

2. EVALUATION OF CU PROGRAM:

(A) STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS:

ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY FEW IN NUMBER, THE AMERICAN
SPECIALIST PROGRAM OPENED NEW, AND BROADENED EXISTING,
CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH A BROAD SPECTRUM OF
GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

DR. RAY E. HIEBERT'S JOURNALISM SEMINARS NOT ONLY
HELPED INVIGORATE THE NEWLY-FORMED LESOTHO UNION
OF JOURNALISTS, THEY ALSO INSTILLED SUFFICIENT
CONFIDENCE FOR THE UNION TO SEEK AND OBTAIN THE
SPONSORSHIP OF A SOUTHERN AFRICAN JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE.
CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS HAVE SOLICITED THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE.

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IN ANOTHER AREA, LECTURES BY MANAGEMENT EXPERT, DR. JACK H. DOTY,

TO LESOTHO'S LEADING MANAGERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR STIMULATED AN AWARENESS OF AMERICAN COMMERCIAL OFFERINGS. THE USIS LIBRARIAN REPORTS THAT LOCAL "TRADERS" NOW REGULARLY CONSULT THE COMMERCIAL LIBRARY WHICH WAS MOVED FROM THE MORE-DISTANT EMBASSY TO THE CENTRALLY LOCATED USIS LIBRARY.

(B) INVOLVING IMPORTANT GROUPS AND INSTITUTIONS:

THE QUALITY OF PARTICIPANTS SELECTED BY CU IS TO BE COMMENDED. THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY LESOTHO HOST INSTITUTIONS WAS TOTAL, AS WAS THE RESPONSE AND COOPERATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THEIR PRESENCE IN THIS 10-YEAR-OLD NATION HELPED STRENGTHEN THE LONG, THIN BOND THAT CONNECTS THIS SMALL AND DISTANT NATION AND ITS PEOPLE TO AMERICA.

(CLS) LEADERSHIP POSITIONS OF PAST PARTICIPANTS:

FY 76 SAW IV GRANTS UTILIZED FOR THE LOCAL DIRECTOR OF AAI (MRS. CELICAH MOKOSE); A MAJOR OPPOSITION FIGURE AND LAWYER (MR. KHALAKI SELLO); A LINGUISTICS PROFESSOR AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO (PROFESSOR RAMONE); AND AN UP AND COMING MANAGING DIRECTOR OF A PARISTATAL ORGANIZATION (MR. CHRIS MOHAPI).

DUE TO LESOTHO GOVERNMENT FOOT-DRAGGING, GRANTS WERE CANCELLED FOR THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND A CABINET SECRETARY. LUCKILY, THE DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR (MR. THABO MOEKETSI), WAS ABLE TO ACCEPT HIS GRANT.

IN CONTACTS WITH THIS YEAR'S GRANTEES, THE CONSENSUS HAS BEEN THAT THEIR TRIPS WERE ENLIGHTENING AND SUPPORTIVE OF GOOD FEELINGS ABOUT THE U.S. HOWEVER, IN LIGHT OF DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING GOVERNMENT NOMINATIONS, POST MAY STRESS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS DURING FY 77.

(D) RELATIONS WITH BINATIONAL COMMISSIONS: N/A

3. EVALUATION OF OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES:

(A) THE CU PROGRAM:

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THE VISIT OF STUDENT COUNSELOR STAN BERRY WAS TIMELY IN VIEW OF THE INCREASING ATTENTION LESOTHO IS GIVING TO DEVELOPING ITS OWN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FROM THE REMNANTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, AND SWAZILAND AT NEARBY ROMA, LESOTHO. BERRY HAD NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL LEVEL CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL EDUCATION LEADERS. ALSO, HIS SUGGESTIONS

REGARDING REFERENCE WORKS ON AMERICAN EDUCATION ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AT THE USIS LIBRARY. THE THIRD RETURN VISIT OF OLYMPIC ATHLETE AND COACH, MAL WHITFIELD, WAS SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE THE COTERIE OF LESOTHO ATHLETES WHO HAD TRAINED WITH THE AMERICAN SPORTS FIGURE LOOKED UPON HIM AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND. HIS FAME ALSO SPARKED A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER INTO HELPING WITH PROGRAMMING WHITFIELD'S SCHEDULE.

(B) EXCHANGE PROGRAMS OF OTHER AGENCIES: N/A

4. NEEW NOR PROGRAM INFORMATION:

DUE IN PART TO THE RECENT TRANSFER OF THE OFFICERS WHO MANAGED THE CU PROGRAM FOR LESOTHO DURING FY 76, DETAILED INFORMATION OF THE KIND DESCRIBED IN PARA C, REPAIR, IS NOT AVAILABLE. IN ANY CASE, MEDIA COVERAGE IN LESOTHO IS SKETCHY AND INCOMPLETE. THE POST WILL ENDEAVOR TO COLLECT THE PROGRAM INFORMATION REQUESTED DURING THE FORTHCOMING FY 77 PROGRAM. STOKES

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